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Revised Version of Green Horizon: AASTMT Action Plan for SDG 15 -Academic year 2022/2023

1. Objective:

Aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 15 (Life on Land), this action plan aims to establish AASTMT as a leader in sustainability by implementing innovative strategies that support land ecosystems, protect biodiversity, and ensure the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

2. Scope:

This action plan applies to the academic years 2021–2022 and 2023–2024. It encompasses educational programs, policy implementation, collaborative efforts, waste management, and conservation initiatives across AASTMT campuses and their surrounding ecosystems.

3. Supporting Land Ecosystems through Education

3.1. Sustainable Land Use Events

- **Expanded Educational Outreach:** Organize webinars, seminars, and lectures on sustainable land use, targeting staff, students, and regional stakeholders.
- **Strengthen Partnerships:** Broaden partnerships with international environmental organizations to bring global expertise and best practices to AASTMT's projects.

3.2. Encouraging Sustainable Agriculture

- **Comprehensive Food Policies:** Implement stricter standards for sourcing food from certified sustainable farms. Collaborate with local farmers to enhance supply chains.
- **Enhanced Awareness Efforts:** Promote sustainably produced foods through student activities and digital platforms to increase engagement.

3.3. Biodiversity Programs

- **Digital Biodiversity Surveys:** Conduct comprehensive biodiversity surveys of campus flora and fauna using advanced technologies such as drones and GIS mapping systems.
- **Community-Driven Conservation:** Launch initiatives like “Campus Guardians,” where academic staff and students take responsibility for designated campus areas to protect and preserve biodiversity.

3.4. Ecosystem Education Programs

- **Integration into Curriculum:** Integrate regional ecosystems and sustainable practices into the core curriculum across all disciplines to equip students with hands-on conservation skills.
- **Community Workshops:** Expand workshops to include certification programs, offering valuable credentials for professionals and community members.

3.5. Outreach for Sustainable Land Management

- **Expanded Outreach Initiatives:** Engage neighboring communities in outreach programs focused on waste management and sustainable agriculture.
- **Experiential Learning Trips:** Organize experiential learning trips that provide firsthand exposure to sustainable practices at partner organizations and within AASTMT.

4. Supporting Land Ecosystems through Action

4.1. Land Conservation and Restoration Policy

- **Advanced Policy Implementation:** Implement stricter conservation policies that align with global best practices and undergo regular evaluations to ensure they meet land restoration objectives.

4.2. Monitoring Conservation Species

- **Technological Integration:** Utilize AI-based monitoring systems and remote sensors to track conservation species and respond rapidly to threats.

4.3. Biodiversity in Development and Planning

- **Biodiversity Audits:** Conduct biodiversity audits before beginning new campus development projects to ensure no harm to local ecosystems and compliance with conservation goals.

4.4. Alien Species Management

- **Comprehensive Species Management:** Implement a strategy that includes stricter entry controls and habitat management to both manage existing alien species and prevent future invasions.
- **Education and Awareness:** Launch educational campaigns to inform the AASTMT community about alien species and their impact on local ecosystems.

4.5. Working Together for Land Ecosystems

- **International Collaboration:** Establish partnerships with international research centers and universities to share knowledge and resources for ecosystem management.
- **Innovative Research:** Secure international grants and funding to promote cutting-edge research on managing alien species and restoring ecosystems.

5. Land Sensitive Waste Disposal

5.1. Water Discharge Standards

- **Improved Water Quality Controls:** Implement stricter water quality standards and use modern monitoring technologies to prevent pollution.

5.2. Plastic Waste Reduction

- **Elimination of Single-Use Plastics:** Further strengthen policies on reducing plastic waste by phasing out single-use plastics and replacing them with biodegradable alternatives.
- **Recycling and Upcycling Initiatives:** Launch recycling and upcycling programs across campuses to foster innovation in waste management.

5.3. Hazardous Waste Disposal

- **Advanced Hazardous Waste Management:** Develop comprehensive procedures for the disposal of hazardous waste, adhering to the latest environmental and safety regulations.

6. Observation and Assessment

6.1. Sustainability Office:

- **Enhanced Role:** Expand the Sustainability Office's role by incorporating data analytics to track the success of this action plan and provide more accurate progress reports.

6.2. Quarterly Reviews and Public Reporting:

- **Transparency:** Increase the frequency of reviews and publish results to ensure transparency and community involvement in sustainability efforts.
- **Impact Reporting:** Improve the annual SDG 15 Impact Report by including case studies, testimonials, and specific metrics related to waste management, biodiversity, and conservation.

7. Resources and Budget

7.1. Increased Budget Allocation:

- Increase funding to support the expanded scope of this action plan, particularly in areas such as collaboration, technology adoption, and conservation initiatives.

7.2. Human Resources Development:

- Invest in continuous training for staff and students in the latest sustainability technologies and practices to ensure effective implementation.

8. Conclusion

Through this revised and expanded “Green Horizon: AASTMT Action Plan for SDG 15,” AASTMT reiterates its commitment to environmental leadership. The university’s goal is to set new standards for the conservation and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems by integrating cutting-edge technology, expanding educational outreach, and fostering global collaboration.